

USDA/Rural Development

1305 SOUTH MAIN, SUITE 103 • HENDERSON, TEXAS • e-mail: Angela.Miller@tx.usda.gov
VOICE: 903-657-8221, OPTION 4 • FAX: 903-657-2571 • TDD: 254-742-9712 - Web Site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>

News Release

TX-035.02

For More Information Contact:
Angela Miller

USDA ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING

(Clayton Volunteer Fire Department to Receive a \$16,000 Loan and Grant)

Clayton, Texas, July 19, 2002— Bryan Daniel, State Director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced today that the Clayton Volunteer Fire Department received a \$8,300 loan and a \$7,700 grant through the Community Facilities (CF) loan and grant program, an agency that falls under the USDA Rural Development mission area. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

"USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Daniel. "With lower populations and tax bases than urban areas, rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

The grant funds will be used to purchase a flat truck bed and a skid unit for a F450 to be used to fight grass fires in the southwestern Panola County area. The equipment will better enable the department to respond in a timely manner.

In FY 2001, a total of \$6.3 million in CF loans and grants were infused into rural Texas communities. USDA Rural Development finances health clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, elder care and child care facilities, libraries, and emergency medical equipment such as ambulances in rural areas and cities of up to 20,000 in population. Funding may be used to construct or improve community facilities and may include the costs of land, equipment, and necessary professional fees. Loans and guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to nonprofit corporations and tribal governments.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Abilene Local Office at (915) 690-6162, ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

###

The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

